

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02
STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01
USIA-06 /068 W

-----108862 090518Z /20

R 081515Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL BREMEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2317

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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BRUSSELS FOR USEC MISSION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH BREMEN MAYOR HANS KOSCHNICK

1. AT HIS SUGGESTION, ON JULY 7, I MET AT HIS OFFICE WITH
BREMEN MAYOR AND SPD VICE CHAIRMAN, HANS KOSCHNICK, FOR A
GENERAL DISCUSSION OF TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. KOSCHNICK,
WHO JUST RETURNED FROM A 5-DAY VISIT TO LONDON, TOLD ME
THAT HE HAD MET THERE WITH SEVEN CABINET MINISTERS, INCLUDING
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FOREIGN MINISTER OWEN, CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER HEALEY,
AND ENERGY MINISTER BENN. KOSCHNICK SAID THAT BENN LEADS A GROUP
OF LABORITES WHO AGITATE AGAINST THE UNITED KINGDOM'S CONTINUED
MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC. THEY CONTEND THAT THE COST OF MEMBERSHIP
HAVE BEEN EXCESSIVE AND HARMFUL TO THE BRITISH CONSUMER, WHO
HAS TO FOOT THE BILL OF SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER FOOD PRICES,
WITH NO COUNTERBALANCING BENEFITS. ACCORDING TO KOSCHNICK,

THE "ANTI-EUROPEANISTS" ARE ALSO CONCERNED OVER THE BURDENS IMPOSED BY THE BURGEONING BRUSSELS BUREAUCRACY. ADDITIONALLY, THEY FEEL, THAT THE UK OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO REESTABLISH AND CULTIVATE THE TRADITIONAL SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.

2. CONCERNING US-FRG RELATIONS, ON THE EVE OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, KOSCHNICK SAID THAT THERE WERE NO ISSUES BETWEEN US THAT CANNOT BE RESOLVED. THERE IS ONE AREA, HOWEVER, ON WHICH THE CHANCELLOR WILL NOT BE ABLE TO YIELD AND THAT IS THE BRAZIL ATOMIC POWER DEAL.

3. KOSCHNICK TOLD ME THAT HE WAS LEAVING THIS WEEKEND ON A 4-DAY TRIP TO DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD, WHERE HE EXPECTED TO HAVE A THOROUGH EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH BAATH PARTY OFFICIALS AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS ON THE SITUATION IN THE NEAR EAST. HE SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO "LISTEN AND LEARN". AFTER HIS RETURN TO THE FRG HE EXPECTS TO SCHEDULE A VISIT TO ISRAEL.

4. COMMENTING ON THE LOCAL BREMEN SCENE, KOSCHNICK EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE BLEAK EMPLOYMENT PICTURE IN BREMEN, WHERE UNEMPLOYMENT IS SUBSTANTIALLY ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. A NUMBER OF MAJOR LOCAL EMPLOYERS HAVE RUN INTO CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTIES (KLOECKNER STEEL, VFW-FOKKER-AEROSPACE, BREMEN TREUHAND-HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, SHIPBUILDING FIRMS) WHICH FORCED THEM TO LAY OFF SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES.
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5. COMMENT: FROM HIS POSITION AS NATIONAL SPD LEADER, KOSCHNICK HAS CAST HIMSELF IN THE ROLE OF "ROVING AMBASSADOR" TO OTHER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIALIST PARTIES. WITH HIS OPEN AND OUTGOING PERSONALITY AND A GOOD GRASP OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE MATTERS HE IS AN EFFECTIVE UNOFFICIAL STATESMAN AND CONDUIT BETWEEN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT. WHILE HE IS REPEATEDLY UNDER ATTACK IN BREMEN, EVEN WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY, FOR HIS FREQUENT ABSENCES AND PRESUMED NEGLECT OF LAND BREMEN AFFAIRS, HE GATHERS IN THE COURSE OF HIS TRAVELS VALUABLE EXPERIENCE AND POLISHES HIS IMAGE IN A SELF-GROOMING EFFORT FOR A POSSIBLE FUTURE ROLE IN BONN.
SCHIFFMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MAYOR, VISITS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BREMEN00302
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770244-0463
Format: TEL
From: BREMEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770775/aaaacnds.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e7958a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1914663
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH BREMEN MAYOR HANS KOSCHNICK
TAGS: PINT, GE, (KOSCHNICK, HANS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e7958a6e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009